



# Borough of Redcar

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1948

## ANNUAL REPORTS

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

N. M. MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Wm. TUTIN, A.R.S.I., M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A.





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Public Health Department,

“Teeswold,”

Coatham Road,

REDCAR.

To the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the REDCAR BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my report for the year 1948, a year which has seen changes of immense importance in the health services of the country.

Before going any further I would like to record my thanks for the help and encouragement given me throughout the year by the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor R. J. Gillingham, J.P., and by other members of the Health Committee.

I am more than grateful to my own staff, both Borough and County Council employees, for their willing help at all times, and for the way in which the two sections have worked in friendly collaboration.

Though engaged by different authorities their duties are shaped towards the same end, namely, the betterment of the health of the people of Redcar.

The two County Council personnel, appointed in September, 1948, have office accommodation at “Teeswold”, an arrangement which is admirably suited to my duties as Borough and County District Medical Officer.

To the Heads of other departments I am indebted for their continued ready helpfulness.

To Mr. Wm. Tutin, Chief Sanitary Inspector, whose report follows mine, I express my gratitude for his never-failing co-operation.

On July 5th, 1948, the National Health Service was born into this world, an infant product of a long and uneasy gestation. Its appearance was greeted by some as a panacea; by others the event was regarded as almost a calamity; and a third section, perhaps the largest, voiced no strong opinions but decided to wait and see how the young fellow comported himself once he found his legs.

The tumult and the shouting attendant upon the birth have by no means died down. The three groups which regarded the event with such different views are still holding their separate ways. One loudly proclaims that the newcomer is the perfect child, the second would like to strangle the wee chap, or at least subject him to a major operation; while the third is still willing to give him a chance to prove his mettle.

A comment often heard is that the creation of so many officials and new Boards, Management Committees, and Sub-Committees, will lead to a form of bureaucracy in which the citizen is looked upon as a cipher and not as a human being.

We are apt to forget that this tremendous scheme which has been functioning for only a few months is in the hands of a cross-section of the community, representative of all walks and outlooks.

There have been, and there are bound to be, mistakes which can be avoided only as experience grows, and teaches.

A narrow interpretation of the provisions of the Act, and rigid adherence to the letter, rather than a following of the spirit of the law, would make the Service difficult or impossible to work.

The potentialities for good are incalculable in the new Health Service, but, if these are to be exploited to the full, then, from all concerned, and not least from the public, must come co-operation and understanding, tolerance and unselfishness.

Your obedient Servant,

N. M. MACDONALD.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	7,035
Population (Registrar General's Estimate for Mid-1948)						27,100
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	7,548
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£178,754
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£709

Redcar is a popular holiday resort for visitors from widely separated parts of England and Scotland. To industrial Tees-side the town is of especial importance because of its ready accessibility.

Man-made entertainments are there to cater for wide tastes, but it is obvious to every visitor that the miles of magnificent sands are the main reason for Redcar's popularity. Another great attraction is the proximity of the loveliest parts of Cleveland which can be reached so easily and quickly from Redcar.

I can think of no finer tonic for folk from our smoke-smothered towns and cities than a holiday which combines the pleasures of the seaside with those of moorland hills and dales.

As industrial development in the north-east goes ahead, so will more and more people look to Redcar to provide them with the change and relaxation which are essential to mental and physical health.

TABLE I  
VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total			
<b>Live Births</b> ...	263	249	512	—	Rate per 1,000 of the population	18.9
Legitimate ...	254	239	493			
Illegitimate ...	9	10	19			
<b>Still Births</b>						
Legitimate ...	10	5	15	—	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... ..	28.4
Illegitimate ...	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Deaths from puerperal causes			Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 total births ...	Nil
Deaths from other maternal causes			Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 total births ...	Nil
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age ... ..	...	...	17	—	Rate per 1,000 live births ...	33
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year ... ..	...	...	17	—	Rate per 1,000 live births ...	33
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year ... ..	...	...	Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 live births ...	Nil
Deaths from enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ... ..			Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 live births ...	Nil
Notifications of Puerperal pyrexia			Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 total births ...	Nil

The live-birth and the still-birth rates are slightly above the corresponding rates for the country as a whole — see Table II.

I am glad to be able to report that there were no deaths from puerperal causes nor infant deaths from enteritis.



TABLE II  
**BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,  
 AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE  
 YEAR 1948**

Rates per 1,000 of the Civilian Population

		Redcar	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
<b>Births</b>						
Live Births	...	18.9	17.9*	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still births	...	0.55	0.42*	0.52	0.43	0.39
<b>Deaths</b>						
All causes	...	11.1	10.8	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid & Paratyphoid (Enteric Fever)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Measles	...	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Tuberculosis	...	0.51	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
<b>Notifications</b>						
Typhoid fever	...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever		0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet fever	...	1.44	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	...	2.76	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	...	0.00	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	...	0.14	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	3.95	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	...	0.96	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)		0.03	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

\* Rates per 1,000 of the total population

TABLE III  
INFANT DEATHS

Rates per 1,000 Live Births

	Redcar	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
<b>Deaths</b>					
All causes under 1 year of age ... ..	33	34	39	32	31
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years ...	0.00	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4

Seventeen infants died under the age of one year. Five of these were premature, four died of broncho-pneumonia or bronchitis, five had congenital defects, two died following operations for bowel ailments and one succumbed to tuberculous meningitis.

I am glad to be able to report that no child died of enteritis or gastro-enteritis.

Further to that disease, which is an inflammation of the stomach and bowels, with vomiting and diarrhoea, resulting too often in death, it has been established beyond argument that bottle-fed infants are more likely to be victims than are breast-fed babies.

Constipation, with its attendant discomforts and worries is common enough in artificially fed babies; it is a rarity in the breast-fed.

The question of breast-feeding has recently been the subject of publicity in the medical and the lay press. There is no doubt whatsoever that if a mother is in good health she should breast-feed her baby, and should be advised and encouraged to do so. The institution of breast-feeding is not always a routine procedure to which mother and child take like a duck does to water. Great patience and perseverance are often necessary, and that is when the attitude of those around the mother makes all the difference between success and failure.

The decline in breast-feeding which has been, and still is going on throughout the country has been the subject of investigation by numerous doctors.

Explanations given by mothers, for putting their infants on artificial feeding, are legion.

In this district the reason most frequently put forward is that, after getting up, or after returning from a maternity home, the supply failed within a few days. In many cases it is obvious that the conditions confronting the mother when she gets up, or returns home after her confinement, are against the prolongation of breast-feeding. She may be living with over-crowded in-laws or in lodgings with strangers. She may have several other children to attend to in unsatisfactory housing conditions, and so on.

Whether she has a home of her own, or not, she is almost certain to be given a dozen different kinds of wrong advice on rearing children, by crowds of friends and relatives. Especially to the mother with her first baby is this diversity of misguidance alarming, and likely to ruin her own good intentions.

If the mother has to go out to work she can scarcely hope to feed her baby, in this district at any rate. There are some, relatively few, I believe, who, though well able to feed their infants, make no attempt to do so, regarding that as a nuisance.

Education has a great part to play in this aspect of child health, but along with teaching must go improvement in home conditions.

The manufacturers of the many good artificial infant foods naturally boost their products for all they are worth. The daily press, magazines, and pamphlets and journals are full of pictures of healthy bottle-fed babies. In many infant welfare centres the same pictures are hung on the walls or stuck on mantelpieces. It would be a refreshing and encouraging change to see instead, photos of naturally fed babies around welfare centres, and children's clinics, and in papers and magazines.

\* \* \*

Table IV on the next page gives an analysis of all deaths.

As usual, diseases of the heart and circulation, that is groups 18, 19 and 20 claimed between them by far the largest number of victims—149 out of the total of 300.

There were 51 deaths from cancer, a rate per 1,000 of 1.8, compared with a provisional estimate of 1.7 for England and Wales.

181 persons of sixty-five years and over died during the year, that is, over 60% of all deaths.



TABLE IV

## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES AND IN AGE GROUPS

CAUSE OF DEATH		MALES							FEMALES						
		0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-	Total	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers .. .. .	..														
2. Cerebro-spinal fever .. .. .	..														
3. Scarlet fever .. .. .	..														
4. Whooping Cough .. .. .	..		1					1							1
5. Diphtheria .. .. .	..														
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. .. .	..				3	2	1	6				3		1	4
7. Other tuberculous diseases .. .. .	..						1	1	1		1	1			3
8. Syphilis .. .. .	..						1	1							4
9. Influenza .. .. .	..														
10. Measles .. .. .	..														
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis .. .. .	..														
12. Acute infectious encephalitis .. .. .	..														
13. Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	..					1	2	3					3		6
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	..					2	2	4					1	1	2
15. Cancer of breast .. .. .	..												2	3	5
16. Cancer of all other sites .. .. .	..				3	8	7	18					7	9	16
17. Diabetes .. .. .	..						1	1					3	1	4
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions .. .. .	..				1	7	12	20					4	14	18
19. Heart disease .. .. .	..				2	11	29	42				2	11	40	53
20. Other circulatory diseases .. .. .	..						6	6					2	8	10
21. Bronchitis .. .. .	..					2	6	8	1					5	6
22. Pneumonia .. .. .	..	1	1	1		1	6	10	2					4	6
23. Other respiratory diseases .. .. .	..											1			1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .. .. .	..						1	1					1	1	2
25. Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .. .. .	..														
26. Appendicitis .. .. .	..			1				1							1
27. Other digestive diseases .. .. .	..	1					1	2	1				1	1	4
28. Nephritis .. .. .	..						4	4						6	10
29. Puerperal sepsis .. .. .	..														
30. Other maternal causes .. .. .	..														
31. Premature birth .. .. .	..	2						2	3						5
32. Congenital malformation, birth injury, etc. .. .. .	..	2	1					3	3						5
33. Suicide .. .. .	..												2	1	3
34. Road traffic .. .. .	..				1		1	2							2
35. Other violent causes .. .. .	..			1	4		1	6							6
36. All other causes .. .. .	..				2	1	2	5					1	2	3
<b>TOTAL--ALL CAUSES</b> .. .. .	..	6	3	3	16	35	84	147	11	--	1	7	37	97	153
															<b>300</b>



## CLINIC FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN REDCAR

The main change during the year was the setting up of a Child Welfare Centre in Dormanstown. The first session was held on June 30th, and each Wednesday afternoon thereafter. Attendances by mothers and children have been satisfactory.

In June the work of altering and re-decorating the old clinic, at 5 Turner Street, was begun, and minor ailment sessions and child welfare sessions were transferred to the dull, drab rooms at 8 Station Road, previously used as a chest clinic.

In November we were glad to return to 5 Turner Street, scarcely recognisable in its bright fresh colours, and adapted to make the running of the different types of sessions a good deal easier than previously.

Orthopaedic clinics are now held twice instead of once monthly.

We are still short of Health Visitor/School Nurses and, during the year, illness further curtailed activities.

Despite the serious shortage of dentists I am very happy to say that sessions are held once, and sometimes more than once, each week, at 5 Turner Street. This arrangement is indeed something to be thankful for.

Details of the various clinics, etc., are given below :—

### No. 5 Turner Street—

Antenatal Clinic—Tuesdays, 2-0 p.m.

Post-natal Clinic—Fourth Wednesday in month, 10-0 a.m.

Child Welfare Sessions—Thursdays, 2-0 p.m.

Minor Ailment Clinics for school and pre-school children—  
Mondays, 9-30 a.m. and Fridays, 10-0 a.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation—Mondays, 9-30 a.m.

Orthopaedic Consultant's Clinic—Alternate Mondays, 2-0 p.m.

Dental Sessions—as and when they can be arranged.

Other clinics held in the town are :—

Antenatal—Dormanstown Methodist Chapel, alternate Thursdays, 2-0 p.m.

Child Welfare Sessions—

Dormanstown Methodist Chapel, Wednesdays, 2-0 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation—

Dormanstown Infants School, first Thursday in the month, 10-0 a.m.

Ophthalmic Consultant's Sessions—

West Dyke School, Tuesdays as required.

Ear, Nose and Throat Consultant's Sessions—South Bank, as required.

Chest Clinic—No. 8 Station Road, Thursdays, 1-30 p.m.

TABLE V  
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

			1948 Population 27,100	1947 Population 26,650	1946 Population 25,810	1945 Population 25,120
Scarlet fever	...	...	39	87	68	39
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	12	17
Enteric fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)	...	...	0	1	1	0
Measles	...	...	107	397	107	558
Whooping Cough	...	...	75	53	43	38
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	0	1	0	1
Erysipelas	...	...	4	9	6	4
Pneumonia	...	...	26	17	21	11
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	1	1	0	2
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)	...	...	1	2	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	24	16	19	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	2	0	8	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	0	0	0

As usual measles was an odds-on winner with whooping cough and scarlet fever reversing their 1947 placings.

There were no deaths from measles or scarlet fever, but one child of four years died of whooping cough.

Pneumonia came fourth on the list of notifications, closely followed by pulmonary tuberculosis, the deaths being respectively sixteen, and fourteen, from each disease.

TABLE VI  
CASES OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE ADMITTED TO THE  
JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL, GUISBOROUGH, IN 1948

Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	16
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					22
					—

Eight other patients were admitted for observation, but in no case was the final diagnosis one of notifiable disease.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### DIPHTHERIA

For the third year in succession there have been no deaths from diphtheria and in the past two years there have been no cases. It is most gratifying to be able to record such freedom from a disease which, in recent years, killed so many children.

This happy state can be maintained only through constant effort to step up the immunisation rate. An accurate estimate of the percentage of children immunised is impossible for two reasons. Prior to the introduction of the National Health Service many children were immunised privately and records of such were not generally transmitted to the Medical Officer of Health. Since July, 1948, a large number of children have been immunised by their family doctors, but some of the records have been retained by the practitioners pending a decision, regarding fees, being arrived at by the Ministry of Health and the doctors.

Therefore, the estimate I gave in 1947, namely, about 35% immunised children, falls short of the actual figure, but by how much no-one can say. Any estimate of the level of immunisation in Redcar at the end of 1948 would also be low and misleading.

Pamphlets on immunisation have been freely distributed at school clinics and Child Welfare Centres; and notices have been put in the press giving full information about local facilities for immunisation against diphtheria. A good "write-up" was also given in the local papers and for this I have to thank the press.

Most important of all, the personal propaganda by doctors and nurses has gone on unceasingly. This is the most effective means of converting the apathetic and, not infrequently, the unbelievers. The personal, individual approach always will produce the best results, and the members of the Health Committee, having innumerable contacts with the public are well placed to spread the gospel of immunisation.

When I took up duties in Redcar I found that, at immunisation sessions, a few sweets were provided from their own meagre rations by the nurses and doctor. Since the introduction of diphtheria immunisation in this country the vast majority of authorities have provided sweets for babies and toddlers attending immunisation sessions. Throughout the whole period of sweet rationing this form of gilding the pill was so favourably looked upon by the Ministries of Health and Food that special arrangements were made to allow authorities to purchase such quantities of sweets as were thought necessary for their immunisation clinics.

It is obvious, therefore, that this practice has been and is recognised as something worth doing. Only those engaged in the work of mass immunisation, and the children's mothers, can appreciate the effect of a simple little thing like the presentation of a sweet to an infant who feels that a quite inexcusable attack has been made upon him by a stranger in a strange place.

For their ready agreement to provide sweets at the immunisation sessions I am very grateful to the Redcar Borough Council, especially as they are no longer the Authority directly responsible for carrying out immunisation.

The total cost of sweets during the first twelve months of the scheme was twenty-one shillings and three pence.

Details of children immunised at the Redcar sessions are given below.

Of those immunised for the first time, that is, given the full course, ninety-one per cent were pre-school children.

#### Immunisation Sessions

		1948	1947
Full course	... ..	475	239
Reinforcing dose	... ..	268	160
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		743	399
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The downward trend in morbidity and mortality from diphtheria continues throughout the country. The figures for 1948 are provisional but the decline is obvious.

		Cases	Deaths
1945	...	25,246	722
1946	...	18,283	472
1947	...	10,465	244
1948	...	8,034	150

#### WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Some encouraging reports have been recently published regarding whooping cough immunisation in this country. Disappointingly few local health authorities provide the material so far, but more and more general practitioners are catering for increasing requests from parents to have their children immunised.

#### SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION

Prior to the introduction of the National Health Service there was a semblance of compulsion to vaccinate but unfortunately so many parents took advantage of the so-called conscience clause that, each year, fewer and fewer children were being protected against smallpox.

The British Public has by now been lulled into a sense of security from smallpox without appreciating the part played by vaccination in preserving them from that disease.

In these days of swift movement about the world, the unprotected state of the greater part of the population in this country lays us open to sudden outbreaks which may, or may not, be limited to negligible proportions.

It is to be hoped that we will not have to depend on a serious flare-up of smallpox to make the public realise that vaccination does prevent that very deadly disease.



## TUBERCULOSIS

In 1948 there were fourteen deaths from tuberculosis and notifications were received of twenty-six new cases. Ten of the deaths were due to pulmonary or respiratory form, and twenty-four of the notifications were of that type.

The shortage of nursing staff in sanatoria is the most serious problem facing us in dealing with tuberculosis. The position is so difficult that cases for sanatorium treatment have, literally, to be chosen on their merits. In other words, priority is given to the patient who is likely to benefit most from such treatment.

There are, more especially among the older patients, those who will do as well at home as in hospital, provided the housing conditions are satisfactory.

But, even with the cases most suitable for sanatorium treatment, delays in admission cannot be avoided under present conditions and so the risk is increased of infection of other members of the family.

In the prevention of tuberculosis we come back to the now hackneyed words "Health education". In no other disease which kills or incapacitates so many of our younger people has education such a big part to play.

Human beings, for the most part, have a natural fear of going to the doctor if they feel he might find something seriously wrong. For the same reason attendances are disappointing at mass radiography centres. If we can teach them that in early diagnosis lies not only hope, but very often certainty of cure, then tuberculosis will not be looked upon as a death sentence, and the incidence of tuberculosis will most assuredly go down year by year.

Vaccination or immunisation against tuberculosis has been tried out in Scandinavian countries and good results are claimed.

In this country groups of selected volunteers are to be given this preventive treatment and the results will be watched hopefully by all.

Bovine tuberculosis, though not to be compared in incidence, and mortality rates, with the human type, still kills between 1,500 and 2,000 young folks annually.

By pasteurisation of milk in conjunction with the elimination of tuberculous cattle from herds, this form of tuberculosis at least, could be stamped out.

### NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1948

Male Age Groups							Female Age Groups							
0—	10—	20—	30—	40—	50—	Total	0—	10—	20—	30—	40—	50—	Total	Total
—	1	2	1	5	4	13	1	5	2	3	1	1	13	26

## RINGWORM OF THE SCALP

Twenty-four children attended the Clinic during 1948 with this troublesome condition. This is a slight increase compared with the previous year, and is partly due to cases found at mass inspections which I was able to carry out at three schools with the specially devised diagnostic lamp normally used at the clinic.

By a bit of improvisation it was possible to use the lamp at the three above-mentioned schools, and I hope that before long there will be facilities in every infant and junior school for the examination of all children.

I cannot emphasise too strongly that the co-operation of parents is essential to the successful treatment of ringworm. Were this co-operation always forthcoming it should be possible to reduce the incidence to an odd one or two a year.

Unfortunately we have among us problem families who do nothing to help, and who cause us more work and trouble than all the others put together. Childrens hairdressers should be on the lookout for any abnormal condition and if there is the slightest suspicion of ringworm they should advise the parent to consult the family doctor. The most scrupulous care should be exercised in the cleaning of instruments, for cases of early ringworm show no abnormality to ordinary visual examination. Another circular letter has been sent to all the known hairdressers in the town. It seems, however, that there are part-time, or back-yard barbers as they are called, and we cannot shut our eyes to the probability that they are concerned in the spread of ringworm, and are extremely difficult to get at in any way.

Again I would stress the undesirability of excluding cases of ringworm from school; firstly, because the period of treatment is usually measured in months; and secondly, because the child at school is under supervision and, therefore, less likely to spread contagion than when roaming around all day.

## SCABIES

I am glad to say that this skin disease has been reduced to negligible proportions. Indeed, no more than half a dozen cases were seen at the clinics during the year.

## VERMIN

I wish I could say the same of head louse infestation as I can about scabies.

Some parents when confronted with the liveliness of their children's heads would have us believe that we badly need spectacles to enable us to recognise dandruff. Even the fact that the so-called dandruff is obviously highly mobile, or mechanised, as it came to be euphemistically termed during the war, is of no significance to these parents.

And now and then a mother opens up rather condescendingly with "I don't expect you'll believe me doctor, but my daughter breeds them; I do myself you know, and my mother said she did, so it's hereditary."

It is rather surprising that even nowadays, there are mothers who will stalk indignantly out of school or clinic with the parting shot "only nits but not one live one".

I do not think the incidence of chronic vermin infestation in Redcar is any higher than that in other comparable places, but to my mind it is deplorable that children anywhere should have to be excluded from school because of lousiness.

There is absolutely no excuse for parents who allow their children to be chronically infested, and in a few instances it may be that more drastic measures than advice, persuasion and help, will have to be introduced.



## HOUSING

If the housing situation were to be judged by the number of medical certificates received from applicants, by the requests for interviews, and by other appeals, written and verbal, then I would say that there had been a considerable worsening compared with 1947.

Actually there was a slight increase in the combined numbers of houses completed and under construction.

A survey at the request of the Ministry of Health showed that for one reason or another the number of applicants for houses had decreased by over 500. This survey was carried out early in 1949.

The waiting list for Aged Persons' Homes went up by 31.

Applicants suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis were granted top priority.

	1948	1947
Permanent houses completed by the Local Authority	118	10
Permanent houses completed by private builders ...	13	14
Temporary houses completed by the Local Authority ...	25	35
Aged Persons houses completed by the Local Authority	6	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	162	89
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Permanent houses under construction by Local Authority		
at end of year ..... ..	126	136
Permanent houses under construction by private builders		
at end of year ... ..	Nil	13
Temporary houses under construction by Local Authority		
at end of year ... ..	Nil	25
Aged Persons houses under construction by Local		
Authority at end of year ... ..	Nil	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	126	180
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		1947
As a result of the survey above-mentioned the number		
of applicants for houses early in 1949 was ...	1,013	1,555
Applicants for Aged Persons' Homes, at end of 1948 ...	116	85

At least a thousand additional houses are required to meet the needs of present applicants. To increase our homes by thirteen per cent is a task of no mean magnitude, and from a local angle there is no problem to be compared in urgency with this one.

As I said in my last report a great deal of ill-health especially among the women-folk, can be attributed to the endless difficulties of living in overcrowded conditions. And even when there is no overcrowding according to the legal definition, the strain of having to share cooking, washing, and other facilities, year in, year out, becomes more than the average housewife can stand without trouble of varying degree.

In my opinion lack of homes is a factor of importance in the rising number of broken marriages, and the fall in the birth rate.

I paint a gloomy picture, but the silver lining is not particularly obvious.



## SMOKE ABATEMENT

Atmospheric pollution is causing increasing concern in industrial areas and in districts adjacent to them, and it is gratifying to know that concerted measures are being planned to deal with this evil, until recently accepted as an inevitable feature of industry and of urban life.

Tees-side authorities, Redcar among them, are endeavouring to find means by which their combined efforts will help to abate smoke production.

There seems to be a greater awareness of the damage done by smoke to health and property, and though progress cannot be as rapid as we would all like it to be, improvement is bound to come. The day is thus brought appreciably nearer when "black" will cease to be descriptive of so much of our country.

## WATER SUPPLIES

Supplies continue to be drawn from the same three sources as previously—our own reservoir, the Tees Valley Water Board and the Cleveland Water Company.

Alterations and extensions were made to pipelines to cope with housing construction during the year.

The eastern part of the town is mainly supplied from the Borough Reservoir and there are constant complaints about the extreme hardness of this water.

The tables on pages sixteen and seventeen show the very great difference in hardness between the water to the eastern, and the supply to other parts of the town.

Preferential treatment with regard to soap rationing would seem a reasonable procedure where the domestic water is excessively hard.

The maximum daily consumption in 1948 was 845,000 gallons, and the average daily consumption per head of the population was, as in 1947, between 26 and 27 gallons.

Twenty-five households draw water from outside stand-pipes.

Examples of the findings of bacteriological and chemical analyses are given on pages 16 and 17, and apart from the hardness of some of the samples the results were satisfactory.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for the details of water analyses. Thirty-six samples were examined during the year.

**REPORTS ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SAMPLES  
FROM VARIOUS POINTS ON THE SUPPLY**

Date of Sample	Where taken	Colonies from 1 c.c. on Agar in 3 days at—20°C	Colonies from 1 c.c. on Agar in 2 days at—37°C	Coliform Organisms	Cl. Welchii
6th Jan., 1948	Reservoir Outlet	8	1	Absent from 50 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
2nd March, 1948	18 Tod Point Road	3	25	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
2nd March, 1948	Tunnel	0	0	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
8th June, 1948	Spring—Upleatham	9	2	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
8th June, 1948	20 Elm Road	7	3	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
8th June, 1948	92 Broadway West	400	220	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 10 ml.
6th July, 1948	Reservoir Outlet	7	3	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
2nd Sept., 1948	9 Coast Road	80	9	Absent from 10 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
2nd Sept., 1948	18 Tod Point Road	490	21	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 10 ml.
2nd Sept., 1948	Tunnel	2	1	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
28th Sept., 1948	99 Oak Road	4	1	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
30th Nov., 1948	Spring—Upleatham	—	—	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
30th Nov., 1948	90 Broadway West	1	7	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
30th Nov., 1948	Reservoir Outlet	21	0	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.



**SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SAMPLES**  
**FROM VARIOUS POINTS ON THE SUPPLY**

Date of Sample	.	.	.	2nd March	2nd March	4th May	8th June	8th June	92 Broadway West	6th July	2nd Sept.	2nd Sept.	30th Nov.	30th Nov.
Where taken	.	.	.	9 Coast Road	18 Tod Point Road	Reservoir Outlet	Spring, Upleatham	Less than 5	Less than 5	Reservoir Outlet	Spring, Upleatham	Spring, Upleatham	20 Elm Road	Spring, Upleatham
Turbidity, parts per million				Less than 5	Nil	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	11	6	Nil	6	8
Silica Scale . . . .				7.4	7.0	7.5	6.5	7.3	7.6	7.6	8.0	6.5	7.2	7.0
Reaction pH . . . .				460	80	475	230	95	440	440	90	220	460	880
Total solids dried at 180°C .				8	4	7	23	3	5	5	0.01	23	14	47
Free Carbonic Acid . . . .				29	7	1	42	10	31	31	14	42	30	36
Chlorine as Chlorides . . . .				140	30	155	50	45	135	135	16	50	150	330
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate				330	45	345	115	50	310	310	40	115	330	750
Hardness—Total . . . .				140	30	155	50	45	135	135	16	50	150	330
Hardness—Temporary . . . .				0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4	1.0	0.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates . . . .				Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	0.01	Absent	0.01	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Absent	Absent	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01
Nitrogen as Nitrites . . . .				0.27	0.020	0.44	0.000	0.012	0.42	0.42	0.016	0.000	0.59	0.20
Free Ammonia . . . .				0.056	0.094	0.040	0.000	0.062	0.11	0.11	0.096	0.000	0.046	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia . . . .														
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C . . . .				0.65	4.5	0.60	0.00	3.6	0.95	0.95	3.4	0.00	0.65	0.00
Metals—Iron . . . .				0.10	0.12	0.14	Absent	Absent	0.20	0.20	Absent	Absent	0.10	0.70
Manganese . . . .				0.20	Absent	0.22	Absent	Absent	0.20	0.20	Absent	Absent	0.10	0.70
Lead . . . .				Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Free Chlorine parts per million				0.08	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	0.05	0.05	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent





ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR 1948

by

W. TUTIN,  
A.R.S.I., M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A., M.I.H.,  
Certificated Meat and Food Inspector (R.S.I.),  
Chief Sanitary Inspector and  
Cleansing Superintendent.

Health Department,  
 "Teeswold,"  
 Coatham Road,  
 REDCAR.

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS of the BOROUGH of REDCAR

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, for your consideration, my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

This report is based on the Ministry of Health Circular No. 269 which calls for reports of a simple character, and more detailed reports (called Survey Reports) at intervals of not less than five years.

This is an ordinary report.

### Inspections

The following is a tabulated statement of the number of inspections made during the year under review:—

Total number of inspections	...	...	...	8254
Total number of re-inspections	...	...	...	9620
Total number of nuisances found	...	...	...	6707
Total number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	6562
Total number of Informal Notices (including verbal and written notices)	...	...	...	6610
Total number of Statutory Notices	...	...	...	3
Total number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	6562
Total number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	1
Total number of Informal Notices outstanding	...	...	...	48
Total number of Statutory Notices outstanding	...	...	...	2

### Sanitary Works and Improvements

Dilapidated dustbins	...	...	...	...	420
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	701
Choked and defective eave spouts	...	...	...	...	379
Choked sewers	...	...	...	...	121
Defective flushing apparatus	...	...	...	...	80
Keeping of animals, poultry, etc., in an insanitary condition	...	...	...	...	61
Defective construction of drains	...	...	...	...	47
Dirty condition of dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	201
Dirty condition of water-closets, urinals, etc.	...	...	...	...	101
Accumulation of rubbish	...	...	...	...	110
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	121
Dirty condition of yards	...	...	...	...	70
Defective floors of dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	41
Defective and insanitary condition of sinks	...	...	...	...	21
Defective W.C. basins	...	...	...	...	42
Choked street gullies	...	...	...	...	91
Defective set-pots	...	...	...	...	8

Defective paving of yards	...	...	...	12
Defective fire-places	...	...	...	27
Premises in a verminous condition	...	...	...	141
Overcrowded condition of premises	...	...	...	341
Choked and defective rain-water pipes	...	...	...	62
Broken plaster work	...	...	...	71
Premises in need of lime-washing	...	...	...	27
Offensive smells	...	...	...	921
Insufficient sink accommodation	...	...	...	12
Dirty condition of cowsheds	...	...	...	2
Defective construction of windows	...	...	...	44
External walls requiring re-pointing	...	...	...	336
Choked and defective waste-pipes	...	...	...	171
Defective and dangerous condition of out-buildings	...	...	...	12
				<hr/> 4784 <hr/>

### Infectious Diseases and Disinfection

Number of infected houses inspected	...	...	...	39
Number of infected houses disinfected	...	...	...	39
Number of schools disinfected	...	...	...	10
Number of classrooms disinfected	...	...	...	82

### Factories and Workshops

Number of inspections of factories and workshops	...	...	...	121
Number of nuisances found	...	...	...	20
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	20
Number of complaints from H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	14

### Bakehouses

Number of Bakehouses on Register	...	...	...	34
Number of notifications received from H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	7
Number of notifications dealt with	...	...	...	7
Number of Bakehouses added to Register	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Bakehouses removed from Register	...	...	...	Nil
Number of nuisances discovered and dealt with	...	...	...	12
Number of inspections	...	...	...	173

### Cowsheds

Number of Cowkeepers within the Borough	...	...	...	7
Number of Cowsheds within the Borough	...	...	...	16
Number of Registered Cowkeepers	...	...	...	8
Number discontinued during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Number registered during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Number of inspections	...	...	...	346
Number of notices dealt with	...	...	...	12

### Dairies and Milkshops

Number on Register	...	...	...	35
Number discontinued during year	...	...	...	Nil
Number registered during year	...	...	...	Nil
Number of inspections	...	...	...	224
Number of notices dealt with	...	...	...	14



### Public Conveniences

All the conveniences in the Borough have now been handed over to the Sanitary Department. This is a much better arrangement, as a regular man is now responsible for cleansing all the conveniences. Those on the front and centre of the town are cleansed twice a day and those situated in the Parks and other open spaces are cleansed daily. Steps have been taken to get permission to carry out the much needed provision of additional conveniences, and the improvement of many of the existing premises.

### Water Supply

No changes in the supply arrangement have been made. Bulk supplies are obtained from the Cleveland Water Company, and the Tees Valley Water Board. All the water is filtered and chlorinated before entering the town mains.

### Shops Acts

Shops have been regularly inspected and the following is a summary of defects found and remedied during the year :—

	Number of Defects found	Number Remedied	Number Outstanding
Rooms not at reasonable temperature	14	12	2
Lack of ventilation ... ..	4	4	Nil
Insufficient Sanitary accommodation	6	5	1
Lack of accommodation for taking meals	9	9	Nil
Insufficient washing accommodation	7	6	1

### Premises Registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938

(a) Premises used for manufacture and storage of ice-cream intended for sale :—

Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Nuisances found	Number of Nuisances dealt with	Number of Samples taken
26	346	10	10	24

The 24 samples taken were submitted for Bacteriological examination. Nineteen samples were found to be satisfactory and five unsatisfactory. No pathogenic organisms were isolated.

(b) Premises used for the preparation and manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale :—

Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Nuisances found	Number of Nuisances dealt with	Number of Samples taken
26	310	10	10	Nil

### Milk Sampling

During the year, periodical sampling of milk has taken place throughout the Borough. Ninety-two samples have been taken both from Producer and Retailer. The milk was tested in our own office by the Resazurin Method. A total of 92 samples were taken, and I am pleased to report that all these samples were satisfactory.

### Rat and Mice Destruction Act, 1919

During the year, four sewer campaigns have been carried out. The first was carried out in conjunction with the block control scheme in which sewers and surface infestation were treated at one and the same time. This was the

finish of the surface campaign which commenced in the previous year. During this first treatment 64 manholes were baited and the result was 26 poison takes and 41 bodies recovered. 181 rats were estimated to be killed at this treatment.

Second treatment, 134 manholes were baited resulting in 31 poison takes and 51 bodies being found, an estimate of 230 rats being killed.

Third treatment 554 manholes baited resulting in 71 poison takes, 434 bodies found, an estimate of 2,886 rats killed.

The final treatment, 254 manholes were baited, 41 poison takes, an estimated kill of 273 rats.

The total killed using the Ministry's formula amounted to 3,579 rats.

The baits used during the campaign were Sausage Rusk and Bread, and the poisons were Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic and Red Squill.

Besides these treatments, trapping and gassing has been carried out. During the year, the refuse tip had repeated treatments, and I am pleased to say, that this is gradually lessening the breeding of the rats, as at each treatment, less poison takes are found. Thus it can be said that throughout the year, the rat campaign in the Borough has been satisfactory

### **Summer Camps**

The two camping grounds licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and situated within the Borough, are managed in a very satisfactory manner. They have proper water supplies and drainage, and all sanitary conveniences are on the water carriage system.

### **Disinfestation**

During the year, 141 different premises were dealt with for the eradication of vermin such as Bed Bugs, Fleas and Earwigs. The latter were very prevalent at the Squatters' Huts, Green Lane. Action was taken by spraying with a D.D.T. solution. Additional visits and treatments were carried out as found necessary.

### **Markets**

The market is held on Saturdays on the High Street site. During the year, the number of stalls have increased and likewise the amount of refuse has multiplied. Cleaning up of this site takes place immediately following the dismantling of the stalls.

### **Housing**

This branch of our work continues to take up a very large amount of our time. All applications for housing accommodation are followed up and where suspected overcrowding exists, the houses are measured up and reported to the Housing Committee. During the year 642 houses were inspected under this heading.

### **Meat and Food Inspection**

All slaughtering of animals for human consumption is still carried out under Government control at the Public Slaughter House, Middlesbrough, and the meat for the Redcar District is distributed through the Meat Depot, South Terrace.



These premises have been kept under constant supervision and have been managed in a satisfactory manner. After consultation with the Local Meat Association, improvements were made in connection with transport of Meat. There is still room for improvement in this direction.

### **Condemned Food : January—December, 1948**

The following articles have been condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Meat—661 lbs.  
Fish—134 lbs.  
Potatoes—5,768 lbs.  
Yeast—1,121 lbs.  
Pork Pies—109  
Onions—17 lbs.  
Crumpets—156  
Miscellaneous Packed Goods—526 packets  
Miscellaneous Canned Goods—717 tins

### **Public Cleansing**

This service includes Street Cleansing, Gully Cleansing, Sewer Flushing, Refuse Collection and Disposal also the recovery of Salvage materials.

### **Collection**

The collection of household and trade refuse is made as often as it is possible. I am looking forward to the time when I can report a regular weekly collecting service. This I am afraid will only be when we are no longer required to use our vehicles and labour on Salvage Collection.

### **Refuse Disposal**

We continue to use the Trunk Road site for Disposal of our Refuse, the controlled system being in operation. This site will not last longer than another twelve months, therefore, I would like to see negotiations completed for the new site as suggested by me in a previous report.

### **Street Cleansing**

All our main streets are swept daily and in some cases twice per day. Other streets are cleansed three times per week. We have considerable trouble with litter which is thrown about the streets especially during the season. I hope to soon renew the litter baskets which were removed due to dilapidation during the war.

During the year, all street gullies throughout the Borough were cleansed and disinfected by the Gully Cleansing machine which is also used for sewer flushing. This machine will require renewing before another year.

### **Cleansing Costs**

The following is a summary of the costs of your Public Cleansing Service :—



## Refuse Collection

Total number of loads—8,200  
 Total estimated tonnage collected—12,300  
 Weight of Refuse per 1,000 population per day—24.96  
 Net cost per ton collected—12/4d.  
 Net cost per 1,000 per population—£278/2/11.62d.  
 Net cost per 1,000 premises—£884/3/0.8d.

## Refuse Disposal

Net cost per ton disposed—3/0.65d.  
 Net cost per 1,000 population—£80/14/9.77d.  
 Net cost per 1,000 premises—£254/6/2.14d.

## Street Sweeping

Total sq. yds. of surface cleansed during the year—12,720,000  
 Net cost per 10,000 sq. yds.—£3/4/5d.  
 Net cost per 1,000 population—£151/14/9.77d.

## Gully Cleansing

Total number of gullies cleansed—40,000  
 Net cost per 1,000 gullies—£12/10/0d.  
 Net cost per 1,000 population—£18/10/4.44d.

The basis of this Report is as follows :—

Estimated normal population	...	...	27,000
Approximate number of premises	...	...	8,494
Tonnage collected (estimated)	...	...	12,300
Cost of Refuse Collection	...	...	£7,510
Cost of Refuse Disposal	...	...	£2,180
Cost of Street Cleansing	...	...	£4,097
Cost of Gully Cleansing	...	...	£500

## Salvage

The necessity to salvage waste materials is still as important as ever. I am pleased to report that the amount collected by your Salvage Collection is on the increase. Kitchen waste and café swill is chiefly collected by local pig keepers. Salvage work tends to hold up general refuse collection but as long as the salvage order is in operation we will have to put up with a fluctuating collection service.

The following is a summary of articles reclaimed and sold during the year :—

Article	Approx. Weight		Amount		
	Tons	Cwts.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ...	259	13	1,847	15	10
Ferrous Metals ...	19	11½	53	2	5
Non-Ferrous Metals ...	1	5½	41	5	9
Textiles (Mixed) ...	11	19	142	4	7
Bones ...	3	1¼	16	1	5
Bottles and Jars ...	4	19	41	7	0
Kitchen Waste ...	10	6	17	5	0
	310	15¼	£2,159	2	9

The cost of this service amounted to £1,813, which left a balance of income over expenditure of £972.

Since salvage operations were commenced in 1939, our total collections have been :—

Weight	...	...	...	...	...	3,718 tons
Value	...	...	...	...	...	£17,107
Approximate Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	£10,550

leaving a balance of £6,557 excess of income over expenditure.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, and to all the members of the staff and workmen for their continued co-operation in the discharge of their duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. TUTIN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses completed in 1948 :—

(a) Council	...	...	...	118
(b) Other	...	...	...	13
(c) Prefabs	...	...	...	25

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	642
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	961
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	361
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	580
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	307

### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :

(1) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	185
(2) Number of dwelling-houses where work is in progress but not yet complete	...	...	...	...	54
(3) Number of notices in course of preparation (not yet served)	...	...	...	...	47
(4) Number of notices outstanding	...	...	...	...	21

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

#### A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil

#### C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	Nil

#### D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil







